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EDUCATION WEEK

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States Are Held Immune From Spec.-Ed. Suits

Court Says P.L. 94-142 Didn't End Protection

By Tom Mirga

WASHINGTON—Lawsuits seeking damages from states for alleged violations of the federal special-education law are prohibited under the 11th Amendment, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week.

Acting in a case brought by the parents of a learning-disabled Pennsylvania boy, the Court ruled 5 to 4 that in passing the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, P.L. 94-142, the Congress failed to use "unmistakably clear" language that it intended to abrogate states' 11th Amendment immunity from federal lawsuits alleging violations of the act.

'Reverse discrimination' suits boosted; key rights laws narrowed. Page 15.

The 11th Amendment bars states from being sued in federal courts unless they give their consent to be sued. The Court, however, has ruled previously that the Congress can eliminate states' immunity from such suits by passing laws to enforce the equal-protection and due-process clauses of the 14th Amendment.

Writing for the majority, Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy held that language in P.L. 94-142 that might indicate an intent to withdraw states' immunity "appears ambiguous at best."

"In our view," he wrote, "it cannot be said with perfect confidence that Congress in fact intended . . . to abrogate sovereign immunity, and imperfect confidence will not suffice given the special constitutional concern" for the balance of power between the federal and state governments.

Several school-law experts said last week that under other Court precedents, the decision in *Dellmuth* v. *Muth* (Case No. 87-1855) will not prohibit handicapped students from filing suits against local education agencies and officials. They disagreed, however, on whether the ruling bars all suits against states, or only those that seek damages.

In addition, staff members of the House and Senate committees that oversee special education said last week that the panels,

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Publication Schedule

With this issue, *Education Week* begins its summer publishing break. The next issue will be dated Aug. 2.

The display-advertising deadline for the August issue is Friday, July 21. The Marketplace deadline is Monday, July 24.

Weekly publication will resume with the Sept. 6 issue, which will include the 1988-89 Index and the 1989-90 Calendar of Events.

AP/Newsfinder

Cavazos: "People haven't been listening very carefully to what I've said."

Scrutinizing the Secretary: A Slow Starter or 'On Target'?

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—In a recent flurry of stories assessing the Bush Administration's first 100 days, the press was not kind to Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos.

Time magazine, for example, gave the Secretary's efforts a "D," contending that "a growing number of critics" believe he is "all talk and no action."

The magazine called Mr. Cavazos "politically naïve" and "a man who lacks the focus and political savvy to be an effective advocate."

But in interviews over the past few weeks, a variety of observers painted a more balanced picture.

Some educators and politicians are indeed sharply critical. They say Mr. Cavazos has not made concrete proposals or provided forceful enough leadership and the Administration's initiatives thus far are inadequate.

"He's a nice guy, but he hasn't done much," said Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers. "We need somebody at the helm who has a theory about what's wrong and acts on it."

Mr. Cavazos' predecessor, William J. Bennett, "had a theory and acted on it, but he had the wrong theory," Mr. Shanker said. "Now we have someone who has no theory and isn't acting."

"I'd like to see him use the bully pulpit for constructive purposes—putting pressure on the people who aren't doing anything, joining forces with those who are," said Bill Honig, California's superinten-

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Middle Grades Called 'Powerful' Shaper of Adolescents

But Study Panel Warns Of 'Volatile Mismatch'

By Robert Rothman

Zeroing in on the crucial developmental years of early adolescence, a report to be released this week offers a plan for correcting the "volatile mismatch" between the structure and curriculum of middle-school grades and the needs of students in this age group.

The report by a task force of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development suggests wide-ranging alterations in the way these grade levels are managed, taught, and supported. It stresses flexibility and interaction, greater training and autonomy for teachers, and expanded community and parental involvement.

"Middle-grade schools—junior high, intermediate, or middle schools—are potentially society's most powerful force to recapture millions of youth adrift," the report says. "Yet all too often they exacerbate the problems youth face."

'Turning Points': Excerpts from report of the Carnegie Task Force, Page 22

In making its recommendations, the 17-member Task Force on Education of Young Adolescents decried the fact that the middle grades have been "virtually ignored" in the school-reform debate.

This omission, it said, may prove costly be-

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Middle Schools Gain With 'Focus' on Child

By Deborah L. Cohen

When Terry M. Weeks set out in the mid-1970's to teach his Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7th graders a lesson on the Middle East, the approach he chose was the lecture.

He told his class the story of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the former Teacher of the Year recalls, hoping that they "would imagine it through my words."

But last year when the topic came up, he let students offer their own solutions to the conflict. And when one suggested that the

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Privacy Rights and Public-Safety Concerns: Debate Stirs Over Access to Youth Records

By Lisa Jennings

In March, a teacher at a Los Angeles junior high school was filling out a student's disciplinary slip when she felt a sharp blow to her back. She thought the boy had hit her.

What she did not know, until the students in her class told her, was that she had a knife in her back.

What she also did not know was that administrators at her school had been aware of the transfer student's history of violent behavior but had not, as a matter of policy, told her.

At a Milwaukee high school last year, the stabbing of a female student during a fight with a classmate forced officials to call in the police.

But when the officers arrived the principal told them he could not, under the district's disclosure policy, give them any information about the two girls involved—not even their names.

And in Jacksonville, Fla., school officials

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Kentucky Officials Begin Laying Plans To Rebuild System

By Reagan Walker

Kentucky lawmakers, charged by the state supreme court with redesigning "the whole gamut" of their school system, took the first step last week by establishing a commission of legislative leaders that will eventually devise the new system.

While legislators said they welcomed the opportunity to refashion the system, which was declared unconstitutional in sweeping terms by the high court June 8, some said they felt overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task.

"I guess I feel a whole lot like the dog that finally caught the car he had been chasing," said Michael R. Moloney, chairman of the Senate appropriations and revenue committee. "Now that I've caught it, what do I do with it?"

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Also in the news

5 **Violating Students' Trust?**
The practice of flagging writing tests that may signal personal problems is raising questions.

10 **'Embarrassment of Riches'**
The windfall for schools from California's Proposition 98 is large enough to spur argument.

IN SUMMARY

States of Special Education
The Education Department's annual report on special education shows vast differences in the frequency with which states place handicapped children in special schools. **Page 4.**

Toxic Troubles
A federal study says many schools are not following hazardous-waste-disposal rules, and New York City officials sue the makers of lead-based paint, which still affects some city children. **Page 4.**

Educating Black Children
Participants at an annual conference on minority education last week showed strong support for the "effective schools" movement, but skepticism about proposals to expand school "choice." **Page 7.**

Abuse-Reporting Controversy
The arrests of two Atlanta teachers for failing to report suspected cases of child abuse have prompted many teachers to scrutinize their students more intently for signs of mistreatment. **Page 7.**

Michigan To Vote on Taxes
After two years of fruitless debate over school-finance reform, Michigan lawmakers agreed last week to let voters decide whether to raise the state sales tax and, if so, by how much. **Page 12.**

'Disappointed' by Bush
At a Senate hearing last week, representatives from education groups criticized the President's education initiatives, in particular his merit- and magnet-school proposals. **Page 15.**

Teen-Pregnancy Alternatives
The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee last week adopted two conflicting versions of a controversial grant program aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies. **Page 16.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

STATES

New York Court Overturns Award To Injured High-School Athlete

Schools are required only to provide "reasonable care" to protect student athletes from injury, New York's highest court has declared.

In a closely watched case, the Court of Appeals this month overturned a jury award of $878,000 to a high-school athlete injured in a 1983 football game.

The court invalidated decisions by two lower courts in favor of Sixto Ramon Benitez, who sustained a severe neck injury while playing for George Washington High School in Manhattan.

The case centered on a 1982 decision by New York City school officials to move the school to the top division of interscholastic athletic competition. Washington High officials had opposed the move, warning that their students could be injured if forced to compete against more formidable opposition from schools with larger enrollments.

Mr. Benitez was injured in a game against an upper-division team. By requiring the student to compete in a potentially dangerous situation, district officials had failed to provide him adequate protection, said Robert Sullivan, his lawyer.

District officials, backed by the state high-school athletic association, argued that the jury's verdict, if upheld, would expose sports programs to a wave of lawsuits by greatly raising the standard of care required from schools.

■ **Arkansas education officials have announced their opposition to what they say is the first attempt in the state by residents of a recently merged district to undo the consolidation.**

The action proposed by the St. Francis County board of education raises serious concerns about racial segregation and the quality of education that two separate districts could offer, state officials said.

The Wheatley and Palestine districts were merged in 1987, forming a system that serves 726 students. The district received $262,000 from a state program designed to encourage small districts to consolidate in order to meet minimum education standards.

State officials have threatened to challenge the partition of the district in court, and to demand return of the state payment, if voters approve the move in an election scheduled for this fall.

■ **School districts must make reasonable changes in their instructional staff so that senior teachers who have been laid off can be hired back first,** the Minnesota Court of Appeals has ruled.

The ruling this month was the first time a Minnesota court had been asked to decide whether seniority rights applied in reinstatement cases, said Judge Thomas Kalitowski.

But the court noted that "realignment" of school staff might in some cases conflict with a district's need for flexibility, and said that teachers' rights to such changes are "not absolute."

The case arose when a social-studies teacher in La Crescent sought to regain his position after being laid off.

The Court of Appeals ruling overturned a lower court's decision that said that staff realignments would create undue burdens on districts.

DISTRICTS

Air Force Base in North Dakota To Become Separate School District

The Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota will become an autonomous school district, the state board of education has decided.

The change will allow schools serving the base to continue receiving the maximum amount of federal impact aid for their 1,800 students.

The board agreed this month to create the district, following the legislature's approval of a law permitting the change.

Since the base was built in the 1950's, its students have been served by the Grand Forks school system, which operates an elementary school on the base but buses older students 16 miles to a high school in Grand Forks, Superintendent Mark S. Sanford said last week.

Grand Forks qualified for the highest level of impact aid until 1987, when the number of students from the base threatened to dip below 20 percent of the district's total enrollment. That would have cost the district about $1 million of its $2.5 million a year in impact aid.

To head off that loss of funds, state officials worked out an agreement with the U.S. Education Department to make the base a special state school district for two years, until an autonomous district could be created.

The new district will contract with Grand Forks to continue teaching its students, Mr. Sanford said.

Officials of the Emerado district, adjacent to the base, have opposed the plan because they want the children of families living in a military-housing complex located off the base to attend their schools.

■ **Two candidates backed by the United Teachers of Los Angeles have won runoff elections for the city's school board.**

As a result, members supported by the teachers' union now hold a majority of the seven seats on the board.

Julie Korenstein, an incumbent, and Mark Slavkin, a newcomer, both of whom received campaign contributions from the union, won seats this month.

In the wake of a bitter strike last month, the U.T.L.A. now views four board members as being "prepared to listen," said Don Shrack, a spokesman for the union.

But Mr. Shrack noted that several candidates endorsed by the union in the past have not voted as its leaders would have liked once on the board.

"They don't line up as puppets behind U.T.L.A. and rubber-stamp everything U.T.L.A. does," he said.

■ **The New York City school board can require union employees to complete financial-disclosure forms and submit to background checks,** a state appeals court has ruled.

The board began examining employees' finances in 1984, in the wake of a scandal involving Schools Chancellor Anthony Alvarado, who resigned after reports that he took personal loans from board employees.

A group of unions representing school employees sued to block the requirements, arguing that such rules should be negotiated as part of the collective-bargaining process.

But the panel of judges declared this month that the "strong public interest in the prevention and detection of corruption" among government employees is more important than bargaining rights of union workers, explained John M. Crotty, associate counsel for the Public Employment Relations Board, which filed the original suit against the school board.

Mr. Crotty said the unions are planning an appeal to the state's highest court.

■ **Colleges and universities in the Boston area have contributed more than $36 million in scholarships, grants, and services to the city's public schools in the past five years,** according to a report by the Boston Higher Education Partnership.

Contributions made by the 23 colleges and universities in the partnership have included scholarships, enrichment programs, college and career counseling, tutoring, teacher training, literacy programs, and employment.

Boston University was the largest contributor, providing $4.2 million in support, of which $3.1 million was in scholarships. Other top contributors include the University of Massachusetts at Boston, $1.6 million; Northeastern University, $1.3 million; and Harvard University, $1 million.

■ **A South Carolina rule banning the hiring of elderly school-bus drivers violates the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act,** the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has charged in a lawsuit against a school district in the state.

Ronald A. Arrington, a lawyer with the E.E.O.C.'s regional office in Charlotte, N.C., said he filed suit this month on behalf of a 66-year-old man who said he was told two years ago by officials of the Anderson District 2 that they could offer him only short-term employment because a state regulation barred him from taking the wheel after he turned 65.

Clifford Nix, a transportation official with the state Education Department, said that the age restriction was rescinded in April.

But Mr. Arrington argued that there is "no evidence" that the regulation was ever abolished. Even if it was, he said, the federal

21,500 Buses Recalled For Fuel-Tank Checks

The General Motors Corporation announced last week that it was recalling about 21,500 Chevrolet and G.M.C. school buses from the 1986 through 1989 model years because a small number of the vehicles have developed cracks in their fuel tanks.

Frank Cronin, a G.M. spokesman, said bus owners were being notified of the recall by mail. The company said in a statement it was unaware "of any accidents or injuries as a result" of the cracks. All inspections and repairs will be performed at no charge to owners.

According to the firm, the school buses—which are B6 and S7 models with gasoline engines—may develop a crack next to a seam weld on the fuel tank, causing a fuel leak. It said the leak would appear as a damp spot on the tank or as slight dripping.

Dealers will inspect the fuel tanks and install cushion mounts on the tank-support brackets on all vehicles, the company said. If any tanks are cracked, they will be replaced. —T.M.

agency would still seek back pay for those deprived of employment as a result of the rule.

Mr. Arrington added that similar suits may be filed against all 91 of the state's school districts because their hiring practices conformed to the state mandate.

■ **The Minneapolis City Council has agreed to fund a summer-school program for 2,000 students** in response to the cancellation of summer classes by the school board.

The board had cut its 9,000-student summer program in order to reduce teacher layoffs during the regular school year.

After criticizing the board for mismanaging its finances, the council voted last month to pay $296,000 for a special summer school to help students who failed district tests and high-school seniors who needed credits to graduate. The plan is part of a $1-million package that includes jobs and recreation for inner-city youths.

■ **A Cleveland-area high-school principal has been unsuccessful in his efforts to prevent an alumni organization he claims is linked to gang-like activity from participating in a school awards ceremony.**

Principal Hugh E. Burkett of Cleveland Heights High School attempted to prohibit Brothers and Sisters Inc. from presenting $100 scholarships to three members of its high-school affiliate at the ceremony because, he said last week, the group was not an official school organization and has "played an active role in fights, cases of intimidation, and hazing."

The school board overruled Mr. Burkett, however, allowing Brothers and Sisters to participate in the ceremony this month on the condition that the group promote scholarship, not violence, and work with school officials to erase its negative image.

Jimmie Hicks, chairman of Brothers and Sisters, said his organization's bad reputation is undeserved.

■ **Four teenagers who vandalized a Mendota Heights, Minn., high school have been sentenced to serve between five months and a year in jail, pay restitution, and perform community service.**

The youths caused an estimated $5 million in damage to Henry Sibley High School when they turned on fire hydrants and flooded the school, loosening asbestos insulation that must be removed before the school can reopen.

The vandals were sentenced this month after two district judges conducted an unusual community hearing to allow students, educators, and parents—all legally considered victims of the vandalism—to recommend suitable punishment.

■ **Two Ohio school districts have gained final approval for an unusual plan that will adjust their boundaries in return for a $1.5-million payment to the district that stands to lose about 30 students.**

The adjustment will accommodate families living in North Perry who wish to attend the Perry public schools but had been assigned to the nearby Madison schools.

Madison school officials had resisted the transfer because of the potential loss of state aid and property-tax revenues, but dropped their opposition after North Perry offered the money.

DIMENSIONS

Suburbs, Rich and Poor

Despite their image of middle-class homogeneity, American suburbs also represent the extremes of wealth and poverty, according to a new study by Pierre deVise, a professor of public administration at Roosevelt University.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Mr. deVise compiled a list of the 15 richest and poorest suburban towns.

The towns on the two lists were radically different on every social indicator except for their economic dependence on a major city, Mr. deVise found.

The average income of residents of Kenilworth, Ill., the richest town, was 12.5 times that of the poorest, Ford Heights, Ill. Kenilworth residents were 41 times more likely to have graduated from college than were people living in Kinloch, Mo.

The wealthy suburbs were virtually all white, while solid majorities of the poorest towns were black or Hispanic, Mr. deVise noted.

Copies of "The Geography of Wealth and Poverty in Suburban America: 1979 to 1987" are available from the Office of Public Relations, Roosevelt University, 430 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60605.

Wealthiest

City (metro area)	Per-capita income	Population
Kenilworth, Ill. (Chicago)	$61,969	3,026
Bloomfield Hills, Mich. (Detroit)	59,859	5,756
Hewlett-Woodmere, N.Y. (New York)	58,309	3,270
Ladue, Mo. (St. Louis)	55,962	8,460
Mission Hills, Kan. (Kansas City, Mo.)	55,136	4,170
Sands Point, N.Y. (New York)	54,393	2,590
North Hills-Roslyn Estates, N.Y. (New York)	52,150	2,750
Harding, N.J. (New York)	52,067	3,520
Oyster Bay Cove-Mill Neck, N.Y. (New York)	51,650	2,780
Cherry Hills, Colo. (Denver)	50,016	6,150
Franklin, Mich. (Detroit)	49,991	2,830
Frontenac, Mo. (St. Louis)	48,515	3,780
Hunters Creek, Tex. (Houston)	48,727	4,850
Bal Harbour, Fla. (Miami)	48,725	2,820
Kings Point, N.Y. (New York)	47,460	5,290

Poorest*

City (metro area)	Per-capita income	Population
Ford Heights, Ill. (Chicago)	$4,940	5,240
Cudahy, Calif. (Los Angeles)	5,170	21,080
Bell Gardens, Calif. (Los Angeles)	5,237	37,070
Manton, Ill. (St. Louis)	5,785	2,720
East St. Louis, Ill. (St. Louis)	5,873	49,250
Coachella, Calif. (Riverside)	6,185	13,350
Huntington Park, Calif. (Los Angeles)	6,298	55,050
Camden, N.J. (Philadelphia)	6,304	82,440
Centreville, Ill. (St. Louis)	6,341	4,400
Florida City, Fla. (Miami)	6,490	6,510
Venice, Ill. (St. Louis)	6,581	3,510
Compton, Calif. (Los Angeles)	6,777	90,550
Kinloch, Mo. (St. Louis)	6,823	4,890
Robbins, Ill. (Chicago)	7,037	8,660
South El Monte, Calif. (Los Angeles)	7,100	17,960

*Located within the 15 largest metropolitan areas.

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Southern Education Board Issues Guides to School Improvement

The Southern Regional Education Board last week issued three reports outlining steps its 15 member states should take to elevate their students' educational performance to national levels by the year 2000.

"Funding Schools and Colleges to Reach Educational Goals," "Reaching the Goal of Readiness for School," and "Reaching the Goal of Readiness for College" were issued at the organization's annual meeting in Palm Beach, Fla.

They constitute the first of a series of reports designed to guide states in achieving 12 objectives contained in "Goals for Education: Challenge 2000," which the organization released last fall. *(See Education Week, Oct. 26, 1988.)*

At the same meeting, the N.C.N.B. Corporation announced a $2-million donation to S.R.E.B. to support school-improvement efforts. The money will be used to establish a leadership academy for school officials and to help develop model educational programs.

Copies of the reports are available for $5 each from the S.R.E.B., 592 10th St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30318.

The Hidden Persuader

Jason P. Loupe, a new high-school graduate from Huoma, La., has won a statewide writing contest by describing—and employing—the techniques of subliminal advertising.

Mr. Loupe included a surreptitious suggestion to "give this essay first place" throughout a 250-word composition, entitled "The Power of Subliminal Messages," that he entered in a competition sponsored by the state Education Department.

Mr. Loupe thinks that contest judges may have given some weight to the lighthearted message when they chose his essay from among thousands submitted by high-school seniors.

"One of them told me, 'When I read it, I laughed and I made my secretary read it too,' " he recalled.

Mr. Loupe said he was inspired to adopt the gimmick by a soft-drink advertisement, featuring the comedian John Cleese, that appears on a videotape of the film "A Fish Called Wanda."

During the commercial, in which Mr. Cleese berates advertisers who use hidden messages to sell their products, the comedian props his feet on a table, revealing a copy of a sponsor's logo taped to the sole of his shoe.

The youth said he immediately suggested to Raphael J. Songe, who heads the English department at H.L. Bourgeois High School, that the tactic might be a winner.

"He came to me with the idea and I said let's go ahead and try it," said Mr. Songe, who used a computer to type the essay so that the message, which appeared 13 times, was so small as to be barely legible.

Mr. Songe said the piece was an example of "good, solid writing," but added that the idea to include a subliminal message was typical of his former student's sometimes offbeat sensibilities.

—P.W.

PEOPLE

■ The West Virginia Board of Education has chosen **Henry Marockie** as the state's new superintendent of schools.

Mr. Marockie, 54, has been superintendent of the Ohio County school system since 1972. Previously, he had been a teacher and administrator in two other districts in the state.

Mr. Marockie will assume the $70,000 job on July 1. He will replace John Pisapia, who has been serving as state chief on an interim basis.

Henry Marockie

■ Twenty students from the **Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration** are forgoing jobs on Wall Street this summer to enroll in an internship program focusing on ways in which businesses can help improve the schools.

The students are taking part in the "Business/Education Leadership Project," a joint venture of Harvard University and the National Alliance of Business. The H. Ross Perot Foundation is underwriting the project, which will cost $9,000 per student.

During the 10-week session, students will work for the White House, the Boston school system, or a variety of educational advisory groups to obtain a first-hand look at some of the problems of precollegiate education.

At the end of the summer, the students will prepare a statement of their recommendations for strengthening the role of business as a partner in education reform.

■ A Louisville, Ky., high-school senior has reported receiving what appears to be a record $885,782 in scholarship offers from about a dozen of the nation's most prestigious universities.

Chris Vuturo, a straight-A student, athlete, civic volunteer, and columnist for the De Sales High School newspaper, was accepted by Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University, and Georgetown University, among many others.

Mr. Vuturo ultimately settled on Harvard, which offered a four-year scholarship package worth about $68,000. He will also receive a National Merit Scholarship and aid from the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Corrections

An article on the National Education Association's presidential campaign in the June 7 issue identified Harold W. Hardison as a state senator from North Carolina. Mr. Hardison is a former senator.

Also, Jim G. Lewis was identified as a member of the N.E.A.'s executive committee. He is a former committee member.

A North Carolina county was misidentified in a June 7 story about school-based businesses in rural districts. The county is Robeson County.

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EDUCATION WEEK

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Kennedy Unveils $330-Million Plan For Volunteerism

Compromise Proposal Highlights School Role

By Lisa Jennings

WASHINGTON—Senator Edward M. Kennedy last week unveiled a $330-million volunteerism proposal under which the schools would play a key role in enabling young people to serve society.

The Massachusetts Democrat's long-awaited legislation, which represents a compromise forged from 10 separate bills, is the most prominent Congressional alternative to the youth-service initiative announced by President Bush in June.

Mr. Kennedy's bill earmarks about $65 million for elementary- and secondary-school programs and $35 million for programs at colleges and universities. But observers here predict that school programs could be an even more important element in the legislation that ultimately emerges from the Congress, probably late next year.

"The call to service should come early, and it should be a vital part of the education for citizenship in every school system in the nation," Senator Kennedy said in introducing the measure. "The lesson of service learned in youth will last a lifetime."

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Voucher Plan for Disadvantaged Pursued in Kansas City Lawsuit

By William Snider

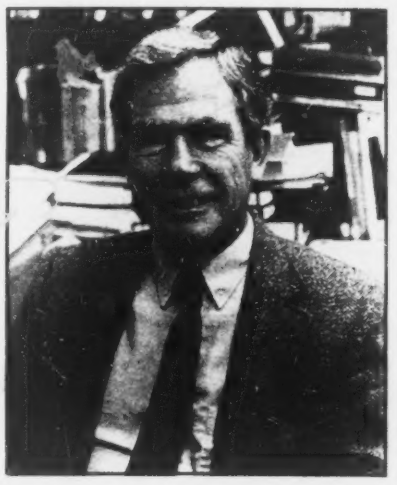
A group of prominent school-law experts is backing a novel lawsuit that urges the creation of a voucher program to enable black schoolchildren in Kansas City to attend desegregated private schools at public expense.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court last month, represents the first legal test of an idea propounded in the 1970's by two nationally noted school-finance reform advocates, John E. Coons and Stephen D. Sugarman, both currently professors of law at the University of California at Berkeley.

Since other efforts to desegregate urban districts have failed to eradicate all-black public schools, they argue, the only remaining means of providing students in those schools with a desegregated education is to enlist the private sector.

Kansas City provides the "perfect" location for a test case, according to Mr. Coons, because even under its school-desegregation plan, the nation's most costly, "there is no place for these kids to go for a desegregated education in the public sector."

The lawsuit seeks the creation of a voucher program for all black students in Kansas City "who are assigned to a public school which either remains racially segregated or which imposes upon black pupils burdens of travel or inferior education which are vestiges of unlawful segregation and whose parents wish them to attend a desegregated private school."



Says John E. Coons: "There is no place for these kids to go for a desegregated education in the public sector."

The action comes at a time when the district's desegregation plan has failed to meet its goals and is under attack from a number of quarters.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal of the most controversial as-

Continued on Page 28

Outlook Is Bleak For Many Blacks, Study Concludes

Council Says Progress Has Lagged Since 70's

By Peter Schmidt

WASHINGTON—In what is being called "the most comprehensive assessment of the status of black Americans to date," the National Research Council has concluded that, despite gains in recent decades, blacks still face formidable barriers on their path to educational parity with whites.

"Segregation and differential treatment of blacks continue to be widespread in elementary and secondary schools," says the report by a distinguished panel of scholars in the social and behavioral sciences. And though black children on average enter schools with substantially greater socioeconomic handicaps, "the schools do not compensate for these disadvantages."

The report warns, moreover, that progress in education, as in other areas examined in the massive four-year study, has slowed dramatically since the economic downturn of the early 1970's.

"Barring unforeseen events or changes in present conditions—that is, no changes in educational policies and opportunities, no increased income and employment opportunities, and no major national programs to deal directly with the problems of economic dependency—our findings imply several negative developments for blacks in the near future," it concludes, "developments that in turn do not bode well for American society."

Released here last week, the 600-page study, *A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society*, reviews the social and economic gains of the past 50 years and assesses the effectiveness of policies designed to bring about greater racial equality. It represents, its authors say, a distillation of available studies, including new research commissioned by the N.R.C.'s 22-member Committee on the Status of Black Americans.

Continued on Page 29

Teaching Board Says Professional Degree Is Not Requirement

By Ann Bradley

OAK BROOK, ILL.—In a major step forward, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has released the guidelines for developing assessments that would enable teachers to become board-certified beginning in 1993.

At a national forum held here July 17-19, board officials said they would create assessments and offer credentials in 29 fields, ranging from early-childhood development to vocational education.

The 64-member board also announced that teachers who have acquired a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, and who have "successfully completed" three years of teaching at one or more elementary or secondary schools, will be eligible for certification.

The controversial decision upset some members of the teacher-education community, who had hoped that graduation from a school of education would be a prerequisite for the board's credential.

National certification will be voluntary and is seen as complementing, not replacing, state licensure of teachers. Whether some type of continuing professional education will be required of board-certified teachers has yet to be decided.

Continued on Page 26

Detroit Officials See Belt-Tightening Moves As First Steps Along the Road to Recovery

By William Snider

The Detroit school board has embarked on the first stage of a financial-recovery plan that requires drastic belt-tightening next year and could result in layoffs for 1,600 employees, including up to 900 teachers.

In addition to the workforce reductions, the budget approved by the board in late June calls for closing five schools and six area administrative offices, eliminating varsity athletics, ending busing for 9,500 students, and cutting spending on textbooks, adult education, and school maintenance.

At the same time, the district appears on the verge of undertaking a major education-reform initiative that would grant new authority to teachers and focus more of the available resources on preschool and elementary-grade improvements.

Detroit teachers are currently considering a new contract whose provisions have not yet been made public but which is believed to embody a significant move toward teacher empowerment and school-based management.

John W. Porter, who became the district's interim superintendent on July 1, also is developing a comprehensive educational-

Continued on Page 27

Kary Kawano

'Stuck In the Horizon'

"Indians are like people split in two," says one Native American teacher. Caught on the one hand in a fierce battle to survive economically in the mainstream, they are also struggling to maintain their identity as a separate people. In one tribe, this perilous, neither-nor state is called being "stuck in the horizon." And it forms the central dilemma of a little-examined sub strata of American education holding vast social, historical, and cultural significance. A special pull-out report on the diverse educational landscape of Native American peoples begins opposite page 20.

Also in the news

6 **Poised for a Takeover**
A judge in New Jersey last week cleared the way for the state to seize control of the troubled Jersey City school district.

7 **Back to Mandatory Busing**
Ruling in a nationally watched case, an appellate court has told Oklahoma City to drop its neighborhood-schools policy.

8 **Tough Stance on 'Choice'**
National Education Association delegates, bucking their leaders, vowed to oppose any federal or state mandates.

IN SUMMARY

Dismantling in New York?
Spurred by the "desperate state" of education in New York City, state education officials are considering a plan to parcel out the central school bureaucracy to as many as 64 autonomous districts. **Page 6.**

'Common Market' for Educators
Seven states are hoping to alleviate teacher shortages by enabling educators licensed in one state to practice in another state for up to two years before meeting the latter's licensing requirements. **Page 9.**

Alternative Educators Unite
Despite longstanding qualms about creating a national organization, alternative-school educators have agreed to form an "affiliation" to promote nontraditional approaches to education. **Page 11.**

Battling Over School Finance
A lawsuit by Oregon students, who argue that a school-funding provision of the state constitution violates their equal-protection rights, has highlighted finance action this summer. **Page 13.**

Buckeye Reform Package
Gov. Richard Celeste of Ohio has signed a reform measure providing for the state takeover of academically bankrupt districts and greater parental choice in school selection. **Page 14.**

Tying Strings to Bush's Plan
A Senate committee has approved legislation that includes most of the education package proposed by President Bush in April—with strings and Congressional initiatives attached. **Page 19.**

Child-Care Tangle
While new statistics show the heavy burden of child-care costs on working women, a conflict between two House panels has placed another obstacle in the path of child-care legislation. **Page 20.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Textbook Publishers Ask States For More Time To Produce Materials

States should publish guidelines for textbook publishers at least a year and a half before the deadline for new materials, a report prepared for a publishing-industry group has recommended.

The report by the Book Industry Study Group, a not-for-profit research organization supported by publishers, booksellers, and librarians, also asks states to consider staggering textbook-adoption schedules in order to ease production burdens on publishers.

The report was aimed at easing the "capacity crunch" that publishers say drives up the cost of producing textbooks and makes it difficult to develop materials adequately.

Under the current system, the report notes, states that adopt textbooks statewide require publishers to deliver samples of new materials at the same time—between March and June—that publishers must produce textbooks adopted in prior years. In addition, it points out, states often release content guidelines for new materials as little as three months before the materials are due to be submitted.

"Elementary-High School Textbooks: The Adoption Cycle/Manufacturing Capacity Dilemma," was prepared for the study group by Strategic Information Services Inc., a research firm based in Columbus, Ohio. Copies are available for $60 each from the Book Industry Study Group, 160 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010.

■ **School athletic groups need a voice on the United States Olympic Committee,** according to the National Federation of State High School Associations, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and two other sports organizations.

The Olympic committee is considering a restructuring proposal that would decrease the size of the current 93-member board, in the process reducing the influence of the high-school group, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the National Junior College Athletic Association.

At a U.S.O.C. meeting in June, however, the school representatives called for giving the N.C.A.A. two votes and maintaining the votes of the other groups.

George Killian, executive director of the junior-college association, also proposed creation of a school-college council to advise the Olympic committee on issues relating to student athletes.

■ **Twenty teenagers from the Soviet Union will live and attend high school in the United States during the 1989-1990 school year,** under the first such full-year exchange program between the two countries.

The exchange is the result of an agreement between Soviet officials and A.F.S. Intercultural Programs of New York. An exchange of 50 students from each country is planned for the following year.

■ **A private agency has been established to provide free training and technical assistance to local family-literacy programs nationwide.**

The National Center for Family Literacy, created by the William R. Kenan Charitable Trust, will be located in Louisville, Ky.

The foundation currently sponsors family-literacy programs, which teach undereducated adults along with their preschool children, in Louisville and in North Carolina.

In addition to showing other organizations how to replicate the Kenan project, the national center will assemble literacy information, publish a newsletter, and conduct seminars.

STATES

School Games in 4 Alabama Cities Are Focus of Gambling Investigation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has joined local authorities in Alabama in the probe of an alleged sports-gambling ring that may have taken bets on high-school football and basketball games.

Allegations that the outcomes of some games were fixed to change point spreads are also being investigated, but the police chief in Florence, Ala., has said that initial reports of such tampering have not yet been backed up by evidence.

A team of federal, state, and local authorities conducted searches last month at 11 homes in the "Quad Cities" area of northern Alabama that includes Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia. They seized three homes, two cars, boxes of gambling records, and more than $500,000 in cash, authorities said.

Among the homes searched were those of a former high-school football player, two former assistant football coaches, and a Muscle Shoals police lieutenant.

An F.B.I. agent in Birmingham declined to provide other details of the investigation, but another agent told newspapers that the federal agency became involved because of the alleged involvement of the Muscle Shoals police officer.

Local newspapers also have reported that Police Chief Richard B. Thompson of Florence has subpoenaed the videotapes of football games from area high schools to examine them for evidence of tampering to affect final scores.

Mr. Thompson was unavailable for comment last week, but he has said that evidence obtained in the two-year probe was being sent to F.B.I. laboratories for analysis.

Results of the analysis will be turned over to the U.S. attorney in Birmingham, who will determine whether to prosecute. No one under investigation had been charged as of early last week, police said.

■ **Some 80,000 high-school students in New York State this month will take a chemistry test that was canceled in June when a newspaper published the test's answers.**

Commissioner of Education Thomas Sobol also said he was examining the results of the 16 other statewide Regents examinations to determine if there were "unusual patterns" in students' performance.

Officials of the *New York Post*, which published the chemistry answers, said copies of the answer key were widely available.

The state attorney general is investigating the incident for possible criminal violations. In addition, Mr. Sobol said, the education department is considering steps to improve test security.

■ **Colorado schools will be required to conduct radon tests by March 1, 1991,** under a regulation issued by the state department of health.

Public and private schools will have to pay for the cost of testing and must make the results available to parents, teachers, and state officials. The schools will not be required to undertake remedial efforts.

Florida last year became the first state to require schools to test for the presence of the cancer-causing gas.

The new Colorado regulation also requires schools to develop plans for handling, storing, transporting, and disposing of hazardous materials.

■ **The city of Chicago and six airlines at O'Hare International Airport should pay for soundproofing measures at 22 schools near the busy fa-**

AP/Newsfinder

PRESSING THE FLESH—Former President Richard M. Nixon visits a public elementary school bearing his name in Roxbury Township, N.J.

cility, the Du Page County state's attorney is contending in a lawsuit.

James E. Ryan argues in the suit that the defendants should cover the estimated $13 million in soundproofing costs because the noise from the airplanes robs students of their right under the state constitution to a "high-quality public education."

Robert Kilander, first assistant to Mr. Ryan, said that constitutional principle as it applies to airplane noise has not been tested in court.

The money would be used to replace windows and to insulate roofs and walls at the schools, Mr. Kilander said.

■ **Massachusetts colleges and universities must provide remedial courses for incoming freshmen who fail basic-skills examinations,** the state board of regents of higher education has decided.

The rule has been criticized by college officials, who argue it will place burdens on already financially strapped institutions.

Terry C. Zoulas, a spokesman for the board, acknowledged that the mandate, which will be phased in over the next five years, will require colleges to reallocate resources. But, he stressed, it is necessary to ensure that all students are able to perform college-level work.

■ **Maryland teachers can negotiate over extracurricular duties and transfer procedures during collective bargaining, but not over demotions and assignments,** the state board of education has declared.

The board already had moved to restrict contract negotiations over such issues as class size and content of teacher evaluations.

Beverly L. Corelle, president of the Maryland State Teachers Association, which had opposed the restrictions, noted that the board did not go as far as some had proposed in limiting the scope of negotiations.

"Over all, we're pleased that the state board didn't just rubber-stamp the local boards' request to gut the negotiations law," she said.

While the assignment and reassignment of teachers cannot be bargained over, the board stated, the procedures used in reassignment are subject to negotiation.

■ **The Hopi Indian Tribe and Northern Arizona University have agreed to develop a model elementary school.**

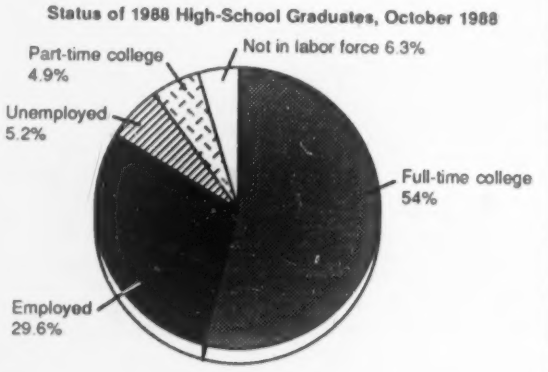
As part of an ambitious educational and economic-development plan, the university will also train Hopi elementary teachers.

The partnership is expected to cost around $550,000 in its first year, with half of the money being spent on educational improvements.

DIMENSIONS

After High School

The proportion of high-school graduates attending college the following fall reached a record 58.9 percent in 1988, according to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



The bureau estimated that of the 2,673,000 students who graduated from high school in 1988, 1,444,000 were enrolled by October in college on a full-time basis, along with 131,000 part-time students.

The college-enrollment levels of high-school graduates have increased steadily since at least 1978, when 50.1 percent entered college immediately, the bureau noted.

Only 45 percent of black graduates were enrolled in higher education last fall, however, compared with 57 percent of Hispanics and 61 percent of whites.

About 100,000 of the 1.1 million graduates who did not enter college were enrolled in a vocational-training course, the survey indicated.

The bureau also estimated that 550,000 young people dropped out of high school between October 1987 and October 1988.

Further information on the survey (USDL 89-308) can be obtained from the B.L.S., U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20212.

DISTRICTS

State To Withhold Aid from Boston For Violating Special-Needs Law

Charging that the Boston school system has violated the state's special-education law, the Massachusetts Department of Education has ordered that $1 million in federal funds be withheld from the district.

Richard Cohen, a monitor appointed by the department to oversee Boston's compliance with the law, said in a report issued last month that the district provided inadequate transportation services and too few speech therapists, among other alleged violations. Nearly 13,000 pupils—23 percent of the district's enrollment—have special needs.

Susan Cole, a lawyer who represents the plaintiffs in a 13-year-old lawsuit charging that the district has failed to provide adequate special-education services, acknowledged that the loss of federal aid may be harmful. But the action will send a strong signal to the district to do more to comply with the law, said Ms. Cole, legal director of the Massachusetts Advocacy Center.

Boston officials responded that the monitor's report contained inaccuracies, and charged that the state appeared to be holding the district to higher standards than those applied elsewhere.

Painted in a Corner?

For nearly a century, a school that straddles the Indiana-Ohio state line has been a symbol of harmony and cooperation between Hoosiers and Buckeyes.

Lately, though, the Union School of College Corner, Ohio, has been entangled in a legal battle that may lead to its demise.

Other than the fact that a painted line runs through the gymnasium to mark the state border—and that it accepts students from both states—the school operates on a day-to-day basis much like any other.

"It's not like we put a little 'I' or an 'O' on students' foreheads," says Marilyn K. Crain, who heads the joint board that oversees the school.

But the school has always lived a double life. It requires teacher certificates from two states, operates under two state boards of education and two curriculum committees, and even deals with two time zones.

The joint board, which includes seven representatives from Indiana and five from Ohio, has spent the past year fighting over an attempt by the Indiana members—and state officials on both sides—to close the K-8 school to Ohio students.

Richard Amick, superintendent of the Union County School District—the Indiana side of the joint board—has testified before a federal district court that personal relationships on the board have become "strained and unpleasant, making cooperation impossible."

The judge in the case ruled in June, however, that Indiana officials could not alter the operation of the school without consent from both sides of the joint board.

The Ohio members of the board want the school to remain open to their students.

Meanwhile, the Ohio State Board of Education wants to stop paying tuition for state students to attend the school.

About 100 of the school's 400 students are Ohioans.

But College Corner district officials appealed that decision in an Ohio court. A judge last month granted a temporary injunction forcing the state to release funds up to Sept. 8.

Funding for the rest of the year remains uncertain, however, and Ms. Crain says the school will not be able to operate without the Ohio money.

Ms. Crain expressed hope that the school would survive in its current form. "All we want," she says, "is to keep on doing what we've been doing for the past 100 years." —L.J.

■ **The Rockford, Ill., school board has agreed to reopen 4 of 11 schools slated to close this fall** under a state-mandated deficit-reduction plan.

As part of a court-approved agreement with a citizens' group, signed last month, the board also promised to create two new magnet schools in black neighborhoods, and to abandon plans for creating a 1,200-student elementary school.

A local group called People Who Care had charged in a federal lawsuit that the deficit-reduction plan would increase racial segregation in the district and place a disproportionate burden on black students.

The district has also agreed to begin a minority-to-majority transfer program and to create a process for addressing broader issues of historical discrimination raised in the lawsuit.

■ **Despite objections from teachers' groups, a court-ordered plan to transfer more than 100 De Kalb County, Ga., teachers involuntarily will not be delayed,** U.S. District Judge William C. O'Kelly has ruled.

Judge O'Kelly ordered the transfers last year, ruling that the average level of teaching experience—and thus per-pupil expenditures—was higher in the district's predominantly white schools than in its mostly black schools.

Teachers had sought a year to develop a plan that would allow shifts needed to equalize experience levels to be accomplished through voluntary transfers, rather than by lottery as the district had proposed, according to Becky Chambers, president of the De Kalb Association of Educators.

The judge last month also denied a motion by black plaintiffs to expand the number of teachers transferred. The district has appealed the transfer to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

■ **A deaf couple can sue their local school system for failing to provide an interpreter at parent-teacher conferences,** a federal judge in White Plains, N.Y., has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Gerard Goettel last month refused to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Kenneth and Karen Rothschild against the Ramapo Central School District.

The Rothschilds, who have hearing children enrolled in the system, say that the district is required under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide interpreters for them at parent-teacher conferences.

The school district, which argues that the federal law applies only to school-age children, had asked the court to dismiss the case.

The judge ruled it was "clear that the parents are entitled to participate to the same extent as nonhandicapped parents" in school-initiated parent-teacher conferences related to the education or discipline of their children.

No trial date has been set.

■ **The Boston School Committee last week approved a three-year contract with the city's teachers' union that calls for site-based management and annual assessments of school achievement.**

Board members and union leaders described the contract, approved by a 5-to-4 vote, as "historic" for its education-reform components and early settlement. The agreement calls for teachers to receive 7 percent raises in each of the three years, at an estimated total cost of $44 million.

Officials conceded, however, that Massachusetts' fiscal ills may prevent the city from honoring the contract. Boston faces a $27-million shortfall in state aid that must be made up before new revenue can be sought to pay for the contract, said Ellen Guiney, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn's education adviser.

"Unless there's light at the end of the tunnel in terms of new tax revenue, it's going to be very hard to find money to fund this contract," said Edward J. Doherty, president of the union.

■ **The Dade County, Fla., school board has given initial approval to a regulation requiring lobbyists to register with the district and report any direct business contacts with either board mem-**

Continued on Following Page

pital C rise in Las Vegas, Nev., has taken over the helm of the nation's largest parent-teacher organization.

Ms. Lynch said she hopes to attract more "nontraditional" members, including fathers, working mothers, single parents, and those who do not speak English, to the group.

"For several years, we have left the burden of parent involvement up to the homemaker," she said. The group can "branch out," she argued, by shifting meeting times

Ann Lynch

and places, supplying bilingual materials, and enlisting parents, rather than children, to recruit new members.

Parents should have the option of volunteering only for small blocks of time or for specific activities, Ms. Lynch said. But, she added, they should honor their responsibility to become involved in their children's schooling. "I don't think it's a great excuse anymore to say you have a full-time job," she said.

■ **Rick L. Barger**, a wastewater-treatment official from Little Rock, Ark., thinks teaching children about the need to save water is so important that he willingly adopts an identity that most people would avoid like a broken septic tank. Donning red tights and a blue cape, he becomes "Captain Sewer."

Armed with a toilet seat as a shield and a plunger as a sword, Captain Sewer regularly visits local elementary schools, where he urges children to "conserve all the water they can now."

Mr. Barger's alter ego has become so popular that he now appears in a coloring book about water conservation that the utility distributes to students.

■ The sale of a farm in southern Florida produced a windfall last month for students at **Deerfield Beach High School**—a $6.4-million donation to their college-scholarship fund.

In their will, the late James and Alice Butler had named the school as the beneficiary of 30 percent of the proceeds from the sale of their bean farm, the bulk of which fetched $23 million.

Moreover, some 80 acres are still up for sale, for an expected $7.5 million. That will produce another $1.1 million for the school, according to its principal, Ronald Clodfelter.

The endowment will yield a yearly income of about $550,000, Mr. Clodfelter estimated.

■ **Norman Najimy**, principal of the Richmond (Mass.) Consolidated School, proposed a novel solution to the budget shortage that threatened the jobs of two teachers: abolishing his own job. By dismissing him and paying a teacher an extra $3,000 to handle administrative duties, he suggested, the school could save about $40,000.

The school committee last month took Mr. Najimy up on the idea.

Although the suggestion cost Mr. Najimy his job, it also transformed him overnight into a symbol of the schools' financial hardships and earned him a raft of media invitations to talk about the need to rethink national spending priorities.

"We expect extraordinary achievements from our schools," said Mr. Najimy, "and yet funding for education in relation to the economy is totally inadequate."

Mr. Najimy hopes to find another education job in the Richmond area, but is not very optimistic about his chances. "The opportunities are slim because of the inability of towns to hire new staff," he said.

Norman McGrath

AWARD-WINNING SCHOOL—New York City's P.S. 234 has received an award for excellence in urban design from the City Club of New York. The first primary school to be built in the city in more than a decade, the $13-million facility features a bell tower, decorated steel gates, and a turret housing a reading alcove.

DIMENSIONS

Minority Population Growth

The minority populations of some major cities expanded rapidly between 1980 and 1985, according to a new report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

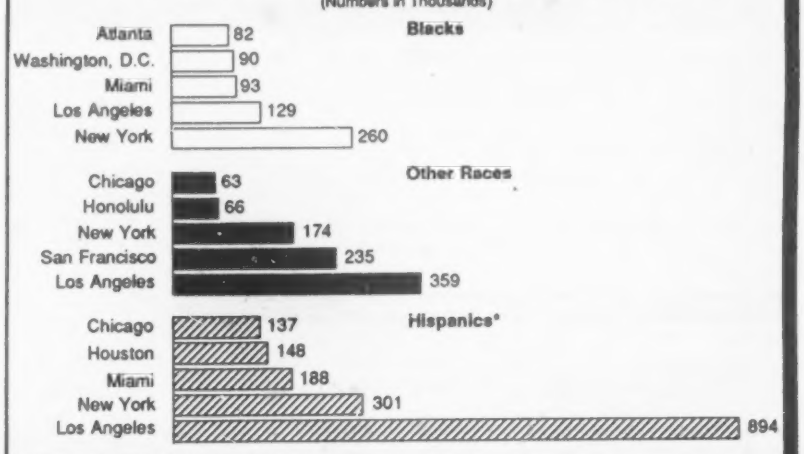
Figures in the report suggest, for example, that the number of blacks, Hispanics, and other minority-group members in the Los Angeles metropolitan area rose by a total of more than 1 million in only five years.

The figures were contained in the bureau's mid-decade estimate of minority populations by state, county, and metropolitan area.

The bureau estimated that the total population of the Los Angeles region in 1985 included 1.2 million blacks, 3.7 million Hispanics, and 1.1 million Asians, Pacific Islanders, and American Indians.

Copies of "Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin for States, Metropolitan Areas, and Selected Counties, 1980 to 1985" (Series P-25, No. 1040-[illegible]-1) are available for $4.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Metropolitan-Area Increases in Minority Populations, 1980-85
(Numbers in Thousands)



* Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Lessons Said To Help Students Avoid Tobacco, Poor Diet

School programs aimed at encouraging students to adopt a healthy life style—specifically, by avoiding use of tobacco and a diet high in fat—can lead to positive changes in their future behavior, a new study suggests.

The study offers the strongest evidence to date that school-intervention programs can alter habits that have been linked with cancer and heart disease.

Researchers followed a group of 447 students in Westchester County, N.Y., who received special lessons for two hours a week between the 4th and 9th grades. By the 10th grade, the study found, those students were less likely to smoke or have a high-fat diet than were students in a control group that did not have the classes.

Students in the program reduced their total fat intake by nearly 10 percent. The proportion of participants who smoked was 73 percent lower than for the other students.

The majority of the students studied were white and from middle- or upper-middle-class families. "If these findings can be replicated among sociodemographically diverse populations of schoolchildren," the researchers concluded, "it would suggest that programs such as this may have the potential to reduce the population risk for the second leading cause of death [cancer] in the United States."

Results of the study, which was supported by the National Institutes of Health, were published in the July 5 issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

■ **High-quality, stable child care is necessary for teenage parents seeking to participate in education and vocational programs,** preliminary results from a study by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education and the RAND Corporation suggest.

Informal child-care arrangements cannot be relied upon, many program administrators and participants told researchers.

But relatively few schools offer on-site day care, and those that do have long waiting lists, the research shows.

The preliminary results were outlined by the N.C.R.V.E. in comments responding to proposed federal welfare regulations.

■ **Children from large families generally receive fewer years of schooling and have poorer verbal skills than those from small families,** a researcher has concluded.

In a review of six national surveys conducted from 1955 to 1986, Judith Blake, a professor of population at the University of California at Los Angeles, found that children from small families were far more likely to complete high school and attend college than were those from large families.

As a result of greater "parental interaction and attention," Ms. Blake argued, children from small families also scored higher on verbal-skills tests than did those from larger families, regardless of parents' education, income, marital status, or residence.

Ms. Blake's work is summarized in the July 7 issue of *Science*.

■ **Colleges must make greater efforts to give at-risk youths an early awareness of opportunities in higher education,** urges a new report by the American Council on Education and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

The report calls for programs to provide counseling for at-risk pupils in the late elementary and early secondary grades.

Copies of "Certainty of Opportunity" are available for $7 each from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, 1920 L St., N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20036.